

## Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 PC-01 SCCT-01 /100 W

----- 091759

R 091644Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5969

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1658

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, MR

SUBJ: MOROCCAN COMMENTS ON MAURITANIAN SECURITY SITUATION

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1653

1. MOROCCAN FIRST SECRETARY CONFIRMED POLISARIO ATTACKS REPORTED REFTEL DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JULY 8. MOROCCAN SAID ATTACK ON TICHIT WAS NOT SIGNIFICANT AND INVOLVED ONLY TWO POLISARIO LAND ROVERS. ATTACK ON TIDJIKDJA, ALTHOUGH MORE IMPORTANT, WAS NOT SERIOUS.

2. MOROCCAN EXUDED OPTIMISM OVER LONG-TERM SECURITY SITUATION IN MAURITANIA. ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT MAURITANIA IS WEAK LINK, HE SAID GIRM SECURITY FORCES ARE QUICKLY LEARNING TO DEAL WITH GUERRILLA ATTACKS AND ARE INCREASINGLY BETTER PRE-  
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PARED TO COUNTER POLISARIO. HE EMPHASIZED THAT MAURIT-

ANIA IS NOT ALONE IN THIS BATTLE; MOROCCO IS ABLE AND WILLING TO MEET ANY CONCEIVABLE THREAT POSED BY POLIS-ARIO OR ALGERIA. AFTER DWELLING ON HIGH STATE OF MOROCCAN MILITARY PREPAREDNESS, MOROCCAN DID MENTION ONE PARTICULAR WEAKNESS OF GIRM MILITARY SITUATION -- IN-ADEQUATE AIRFIELDS. HE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT MOROCCAN F-5S CAN LAND AT ONLY ONE AIRFIELD IN MAURITANIA--NOUAD-IBOU. HE INSISTED THAT NOUAKCHOTT CANNOT HANDLE F-5S. MOROCCAN SAID MAURITANIA WILL SOON BEGIN PROGRAM TO UPGRADE AIRFIELDS IN COUNTRY AND NOTED THAT MOROCCO HAS OTHER PLANES THAT CAN LAND ON CERTAIN MAURITANIAN AIRSTRIPS. FIRST SECRETARY ENDED CONVERSATION ON UPBEAT, EXPRESSING SAME OPTIMISM WITH WHICH HE BEGAN DISCUSSION.

3. COMMENT: NOUAKCHOTT AIRFIELD IS 2000 METERS LONG. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEW WHETHER 2000-METER AIRFIELD CAN HANDLE F-5S.

HANDYSIDE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONAL SECURITY, TERRORISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MOPS, PINS, MR, POLISARIO  
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